



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Committee Bill No. 5900

LCO No. 5235



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT REQUIRING MORE TRANSPARENCY IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION AND THE STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (28) of section 4e-1 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (28) "State contracting agency" means any executive branch agency,
5 board, commission, department, office, institution or council. "State
6 contracting agency" does not include the judicial branch, the legislative
7 branch, the offices of the Secretary of the State, the State Comptroller,
8 the Attorney General, the State Treasurer, with respect to their
9 constitutional functions, any state agency with respect to contracts
10 specific to the constitutional and statutory functions of the office of the
11 State Treasurer. For the purposes of section 4e-16, [state contracting
12 agency] "state contracting agency" includes any constituent unit of the
13 state system of higher education and for the purposes of section 4e-19,
14 "state contracting agency" includes the State Education Resource
15 Center, established pursuant to section 10-4q, as amended by this act,

16 and any regional educational service centers, as described in section
17 10-66a;

18 Sec. 2. Section 10-4q of the general statutes is repealed and the
19 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

20 (a) The State Board of Education shall establish a State Education
21 Resource Center to assist the board in the provision of programs and
22 activities that will promote educational equity and excellence. Such
23 activities, to be provided by the State Education Resource Center or a
24 regional educational service center, may include training and
25 professional development seminars, publication of technical materials,
26 research and evaluation, and other related activities. The center may
27 support programs and activities concerning early childhood education,
28 the federal No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, and closing the
29 academic achievement gap between socio-economic subgroups, and
30 other related programs. The center shall be considered a public agency,
31 as defined in section 1-200, for purposes of chapter 14.

32 (b) The Commissioner of Education, with the assistance of the State
33 Education Resource Center, may provide grants to local and regional
34 boards of education for districts identified as in need of improvement
35 under the provisions of section 10-223e. The grants shall be for the
36 creation and acquisition of new curricula, training in the use of the
37 curricula and related supporting textbooks and other materials. Local
38 and regional boards of education may use such grants only for
39 curricula, training and related textbooks and materials that have been
40 authorized by the commissioner. Local and regional boards of
41 education shall apply for grants pursuant to this subsection at such
42 time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes, and the
43 commissioner shall determine the amount of the grant awards.

44 (c) Within available appropriations, the Department of Education
45 shall establish a Connecticut School Reform Resource Center within
46 the State Education Resource Center established pursuant to
47 subsection (a) of this section or by contract through a regional

48 educational service center. The center shall operate year-round and
49 focus on serving the needs of all public schools. The center shall (1)
50 publish and distribute reports on the most effective practices for
51 improving student achievement by successful schools, (2) provide a
52 program of professional development activities for (A) school leaders,
53 including curriculum coordinators, principals, superintendents and
54 board of education members, and (B) teachers to educate such students
55 that includes research-based child development and reading
56 instruction tools and practices, (3) provide information on successful
57 models for evaluating student performance and managing student
58 data, (4) develop strategies for assisting such students who are in
59 danger of failing, (5) develop culturally relevant methods for
60 educating students whose primary language is not English, and (6)
61 provide other programs and materials to assist in the improvement of
62 public schools.

63 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2013*) Not later than January 15, 2014,
64 and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall submit a
65 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
66 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
67 having cognizance of matters relating to education and government
68 administration containing (1) all contracts, including personal service
69 agreements, awarded by the Department of Education and the State
70 Education Resource Center to private vendors and regional education
71 service centers during the previous year for purposes of fulfilling the
72 duties of the Department of Education; (2) all amounts and sources of
73 private funding, including grants, received by the Department of
74 Education and the State Education Resource Center; and (3) the
75 amounts paid by the Department of Education or the State Education
76 Resource Center for the salary, fringe benefits and other compensation
77 for any department or center employee or consultant. Such report shall
78 also be posted on the Internet web sites of the Department of
79 Education and the State Education Resource Center.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	4e-1(28)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10-4q
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To subject the State Education Resource Center to competitive bidding and Freedom of Information Act requirements and to require the Department of Education to submit an annual report to certain legislative committees regarding contracts awarded by the department or the center, sources of funding and amounts paid to employees and consultants of the department or center.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. MORIN, 28th Dist.

H.B. 5900